



Congressman Tim Bishop

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250 Seniors Attend Bishop Prescription Drug Health Care Forum

Congressman Welcomes Medicare Part D Eligible Residents to Speak One-on-One With Prescription Coverage Providers, Medicare Professionals

PATCHOGUE, NY- More than 250 area seniors attended a Health Care Forum on Saturday, hosted by Congressman Tim Bishop. Bishop held the forum to help answer questions about the Medicare Part D prescription drug program. The forum was held at the Patchogue Fire Department.

“I am glad so many seniors took advantage of this free health fair so they can make informed choices about a plan that is right for them and avoid paying a Medicare penalty,” Bishop said.

In addition to having the opportunity to ask questions of Congressman Bishop, seniors were able to meet face-to-face with insurance companies providing prescription drug coverage and to also meet with representatives from Medicare, EPIC, and Social Security. Additionally, Brookhaven Hospital provided free health screenings as did the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus. The group Seniors Against Discrimination (SAD) was also there to inform seniors about important issues affecting them.

Bishop noted that the deadline to sign up for the Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Program is fast approaching. Once the May 15 deadline passes, seniors who have not enrolled and do not have comparable coverage will be subject to a 1% per month lifetime penalty on their premium if they choose to enroll in the drug plan at a later date. For example, if a senior enrolls 15 months past May 15, the recipient would pay an additional 15% lifetime penalty on his or her premium.

Bishop has been working hard to inform seniors about the plan, and has held 16 meetings on the topic in the past few months. Bishop opposed the plan that created the new program because he believes the drug benefit is inadequate, overly complex, and is a boon to big drug companies. However, he believes it is important for his constituents to have the necessary information in order to make the best decision based on their needs.

“I am against imposing an escalating lifetime penalty on seniors who are trying to choose the best coverage,” Bishop said. The Congressman supports a six-month enrollment extension, the Medicare Informed Choice Act, which will give seniors more time to make informed decisions.



PHOTO-- Congressman Tim Bishop (right) talks with nurses from Brookhaven Hospital, Ann Marie McCord, RN (wearing white coat) and Deirdre McCauley, and a local seniors at the Congressman's Health Care Forum on Saturday at the Patchogue Fire Department.

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